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The Search for the Grave of Vines Collier

FEBRUARY 7, 2015 11:01 PM \ 1 COMMENT \ BY COLLIERHERITAGE \ EDIT



Jena Cuthbert Collier, the only son of Isaac Cuthbert Collier, became more interested in his family history after the death of his father. He knew his ancestors had moved to Upson County from Oglethorpe County, Georgia and that they had lived near Old Salem Church. In 1924, J. C. sent the following letter to "the nearest resident of Old Salem Church".

Sept. 12, 1924.

To the Nearest resident of Old Salem Church
Lexington, Ga.

Dear Sir;

I have just learned that my great great grandfather is buried at Lexington, Ga. His name was Vines Collier and he moved from Virginia to Oglethorpe County in the 18th Century. I would appreciate it if you would advise me if you know where his grave is located and if it is marked, also the names of any other members of the family that might be buried in this cemetery. If he has any descendants around Lexington I would appreciate your handing them this letter and request them to give me the information desired. Vines Collier was the Father of Robert Collier that moved to Upson County Georgia about 150 years ago.

Very respectfully,

J. C. Collier.

JCC:C

Apparently the letter found its way to Mr. John S. Bacon, who took the inquiry seriously. Mr. Bacon did his research and responded.

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Lexington Ga Dec 19-1924
Mr J C Collier
Barnesville Ga

Dear Sir

Your letter of Sept 12.
1924 addressed to "nearest resi-
-dent of Old Salem Church" was
delivered to me. I bring one
of the deacons and the
Clerk of the Church.

Your inquiry in regard to
the Collier family especially
Vines Collier reminds me
that I have heard my
Mother speak of Vines Collier
She was a Howard and some
of her people resided in

I have been making inquiry among the older people and find out that the E. T. Howard place was at one time known as the Collier place. I received this information from a blind man that lives in the neighborhood.

I have seen an old maiden woman who lives at Stephens Ga she was raised near here. She informs me that she has heard her mother speak of the Howard place as the Vines Collier place and that Vines Collier was born

a small grave yard in the field near the house, it is in a small bunch of pines. I live about $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles from Mr Howard, my home is on the Stone Mountain Highway $5\frac{1}{2}$ miles south of Lexington. I don't find any Collier grave in either of the Cemeterys in Lexington.

I have examined the records in the Clerks office and find that what we know now as the Howard land was deeded on Nov 15-1824 by Cuthbert Collier to Peachy

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by Peachy R Kilmer to Wm
T. Howard. Wm T. Howard
was the father of Mrs E. T. Howard.

I cannot find how Euthbert
Collier came in possession
of this property.

Oglethorpe County was
formed in 1794 and this
section was at that time
a part of Wilkes County.
It may be possible that
the records of Wilkes County
would show this land as
being the Vines Collier place.
From what I can gather
from the oldest people I
do not doubt but that

Vines Collier place and
that Vines Collier is buried
there

I expect that that you have
given up hopes of ever
hearing from your letter
and I should have written
to you sooner but have
been trying to get all of
the information I could
before writing

I know a very old man
in Sanford Fla that was
raised and lived till middle
life near Salem Church. I
am going to write to him.
it may be that he can
give me some information

b.

in regard to the Collier family.

I go to Washington some times and the next time that I am there I will see if I can find any record of the Vines Collier land.

I do not find anything in the Salem Church ^{record} of any Colliers, though we only have the record since 1854. The Church was organized July 1789. all records prior to 1854 was burned in the burning of Dr Sanders home

mm

will be of any good to you
I am glad that your letter
fell in my hands.

If I can serve you
in the future in any
way all you have to do
is let me know it, or
if you are ever through
here stop at my home
just my wife and I live
by our selves she says that
we are two old folks but

I tell her that we are just
in our prime, you may
know by this that I have
passed middle life. I was
born and raised near my
aunt's house.

owned for nearly forty years
and the name of Collier is
familiar to men of my age.
Let me know if I ^{can} be of
any service to you in the
future

Hope that you and yours
will have a pleasant Christ-
mas

Respt.

John S. Bacon

A probably excited J. C. Collier wrote back in less than a week. I have not found any pages of the letter that might have come after the first page.

Dec. 24, 1924.

Mr. John S. Bacon,
Lexington, Ga.

Dear Mr. Bacon;

I have enjoyed very much reading your letter of Dec. 19th. Since writing you last spring I have secured a great deal of information that I did not know at that time regarding the family of Vines Collier who was my great-great-grandfather and who moved from Brunswick Co. Va. to Wilkes Co. Georgia and then later to Oglethorpe. Vines had 13 children, viz: Mary, born in Brunswick Co. Va. in 1760 who married John N. Owen. Elizabeth, born in Brunswick Co. Va. in 1761 who married Thos. Dunn. Sarah, born in Brunswick Co. Va. in 1763 who married Harrison King Smith. Anne, born in Brunswick Co. Va. 1767 who married John Hardeman first and George Menafee second. Thomas, born in Brunswick Co. Va. in 1771. John Born in Brunswick Co. Va. in 1773 who married Patch Gresham. William born in Brunswick Co. Va. in 1775 who married Sallie Powell. Vines, Jr. born in 1777 who married Dorothy Rafferty. Benjamin born in 1779 who married Ann (Polly) Howard. Williamson born in Wilkes or Oglethorpe Co. Ga. in 1781 and married Jemena Powell. Robert born in Oglethorpe Co. 1783 and married Martha Booker of Putnam. Cuthbert born in Oglethorpe Co. in 1785 and married Nancy Dickes.

Vines came from Virginia to Georgia in 1780, his wife was named Sarah Elizabeth Williamson. The Robert mentioned above was my great-grandfather and lived and died in Upson Co. Cuthbert moved to Monroe, Benjamin to Crawford Co., Thomas to Columbus Co. and there was an Isaac in this crowd who was Vines son that I overlooked mentioning above that was born 1765 in Brunswick Co. Va. and married Elizabeth Smith, daughter of Chas. Smith. Vines died in 1797 and was said to be a member of the Salem Baptist Church near you and my information was that he was buried in this Old Salem Church cemetery.

I have given you the above in order that you may assist me as much as you can in completing this record.

I notice that Sallie Powell married William Collier above mentioned in 1801. Vines Jr. died unmarried. It appears that Ann Howard had a daughter Mordeca who married Benjamin A. Collier. It seems there was a Jordan who married Edward Vines Collier. The records I had show that Vines lived in the 228 G.M. District, Oglethorpe Co. 6 miles southeast of Lexington near Salem Church.

Here is a June 8, 1925 letter from John S. Bacon to J. C. Collier (original and JCC copy). It is interesting to note the original envelope was postmarked Lexington and is self-addressed to J. C. Collier. I found

J. C. often provided self-addressed stamped envelopes with his inquiries.

Livingston Ga June 8 - 205-
Mr J C Collier - Barnesville Ga
Dear Sir

I received your
letter of Apr 27.

I have talked to an old
woman at Stephens Ga who
is about 75 years, old also
to an old blind man about
80 years.

There is no doubt about
the W T Howard place
being the Viner Collier place
records from that and from
what these two old people
say there is no doubt
of the location of

exact location of the
Cemetery, the Cemetery is
remembered by Mrs Weaver
a daughter of W J Howard
and a widow. She lives in
the Vines Collier house and
remembers the Cemetery.

The land was allowed to
grow pines after the war
and when it was cleared
quite a number of years
ago the ground where the
Cemetery was was put in
cultivation - I am sorry to
have to tell you this.

I live on the Federal highway No
78 - State highway No 10 - 5 1/2
miles south of Lexington.

two miles from the W T Howard
or Vines Collier place.

If you should be in this
section of the state would
be glad to show you
the place and location
of the cemetery if you cared
to see them

Delay in answering your
letter was not because of
indifference

Very Respectfully
John S. Bacon

C
O
P
Y

Lexington, Ga., June 8, 1925.

Mr. J. C. Collier,
Barnesville, Ga.

Dear Sir:

I received your letter of Apr. 5.

I have talked to an old woman at Stephens, Ga., who is about 75 years old also to an old blind man about 80 years.

There is no doubt about the W. T. Howard place being the Vines Collier place. Records prove that, and from what these two old people say there is no doubt about the location of the cemetery. The exact location of the cemetery is remembered by Mrs. Weaver a daughter of W. T. Howard and a widow. She lives in the Vines Collier house and remembers the cemetery. The land was allowed to grow pines after the war and when it was cleared quite a number of years ago the ground where the cemetery was put in cultivation. I am sorry to have to tell you this.

I live on the Federal highway No. 78, State highway No. 10-5½ miles south of Lexington, two miles from the W. T. Howard or Vines Collier place.

If you should be in this section of the state would be glad to show you the place and location of the cemetery if you cared to see them.

Delay in answering your letter was not because of indifference.

Very respectfully,

JOHN S. BACON.

Nov. 30, 1928 letter from J. C. Collier to E. T. Howard (1928 owner of the house original built by Vines Collier).

Nov. 30, 1928.

Mr. S. T. Howard,
Route,
Lexington, Ga.

Dear Mr. Howard:

I wish to thank you for the very kind attention given me the few moments I was at your home Tuesday, November 27th. I expect to make another visit there sometime when the weather is good, as we must arrange in some way to replace the graves of Vines Collier and his wife, Sarah.

I thank you very much for your offer to seal us a little spot of ground where the cemetery existed, but in the meantime I would appreciate it if will make inquiries from your oldest citizens in order that I may be certain of the fact that this is the spot he was buried. I am quite sure it is, because I received a letter from Mr. John S. Bacon on June 8th, 1925, to this effect. I know I told you that I thought I received a letter from a party by the name of "Lewis", but I was mistaken, as I have looked up the letter and it came from Mr. John S. Bacon, who is evidently still living in your vicinity.

see Mr. Bacon stated in his letter that the place was known as the Howard place and that he talked with an old woman about 75 years old of Stephens, Georgia; also an old blind man about 80 years old, and he stated that the exact location of the cemetery was remembered by a Mrs. Weaver, a daughter of S. T. Howard and a widow, who lived in the Vines Collier house. The land was allowed to grow up in pines after the war and when it was cleared quite a number of years ago the ground where the cemetery was was put in cultivation, and evidently this was the spot you showed me the other day.

I am quite anxious to restore this cemetery with markers. Could you find out from some of the oldest citizens if Sarah Collier, wife of Vines and who was alive at the time Vines died on September 7th, 1795, was buried at this same place?

Was there a cemetery at the old Salem Church spot that you mentioned to me the other day where the church pillars still remain?

My son, Mr. D. C. Collier, who is President of the Southern Manufacturing Company, Athens, a big cotton mill, lives at Athens so I will be over that way occasionally and I want to come out again to Lexington to make a more thorough investigation, at which time I will take up with you the purchase of a small spot with a roadway

ETH--2

coming out to the road.

Again thanking you for the kindness extended me, I beg to remain

Yours most cordially,

JCC:S

J. C. COLLIER.

Dec. 1, 1928 letter from J. C. Collier to John S. Bacon:

Dec. 1, 1928.

Mr. John S. Bacon,
Lexington, Ga.

Dear Mr. Bacon:

I was over at Lexington last Tuesday, November 27th, and went out to the old Howard-Collier place late in the afternoon. I spent the forenoon in checking the records over at the court house. Mr. E. P. Howard showed me the spot that is evidently the grave of Vines Collier, and I am arranging with him to purchase a little spot for the cemetery and reclaim the graves.

Could you give me an idea of the approximate number of graves that were in this spot and if Sarah or Sallie Collier, Vines' wife, was buried along with him, and if there were any grandchildren or Vines Collier, Jr., and his wife buried there? I would like to secure all the information possible regarding this old graveyard that has been there for almost one hundred and fifty years.

I would appreciate as prompt reply as possible, as I expect to be over there again very shortly. The next time I am over that way I will take pleasure in dropping by and meeting you.

With usual kind regards, I beg to remain

Yours most respectfully,

April 2, 1931 letter from J. C. Collier to E. T. Howard:

April 2nd, 1931.

Mr. E. P. Howard,
Lexington, Ga.

Dear Mr. Howard:-

I have at last gotten the government agreement to make the Vines Collier monument to go on the cemetery lot that I purchased in front of your home; the same will be shipped to you at Lexington freight pre-paid. I will shortly have the granite post and the other monuments shipped, all of which will come to you.

Very respectfully,

J. C. Collier.

June 10, 1932 letter from E. T. Howard to J. C. Collier:

Vincent Collier
Monument

Winnington Georgia
June 10, 1932.

Mr. J. C. Collier,
Barnesville, Ga.

Dear Sir: —

I received the monument
to which you referred in your letter of
a few days ago, about a year ago and
have ^{had it} placed as you suggested.

I did not notify you at the time
that I had received it, because
you wrote me that it was being
or was going to be shipped, so
did not think it necessary.

Sorry to have caused you to think
by ^{my} not notifying you that there
could have been any delay in

Mr. J. C. Collier
Birmingham, Ala.
Dear Sir: -
I received the statement
to which you referred in your letter of
a few days ago, about a year ago and
have placed on your suggestion.
I will not notify you at the time
that I had received it, because
you wrote me that it was being
sent to the Department, and
I was going to be notified, and
did not think it necessary
to send to him. I am
very truly yours,
E. T. Howard.

J. C. Collier's efforts resulted in a DAR marker being placed at the grave of Vines Collier in June 1932. On June 29, 1932, J. C. sent the following letter to E. T. Howard:

June 29th, 1932.

Mr. E. T. Howard,
Lexington, Ga.

Dear Sir:-

All records show that Vines Collier, Jr., never married, and was the one buried on your lot on the Collier farm.

John Collier was the Administrator of Vines Collier estate, and records show that he went to Jasper County later.

Enclosed find kodak picture of you home, the photographer of Winder, Ga., could enlarge this for you at a very nominal cost.

All of us thank you very much for the interest taken.

I am arranging to place the order for the other two markers, and the four granite post, and will try and have them delivered on the farm from Elberton.

I believe that I have a deed to one-half acre, so ~~should~~ then have a post as each corner, having same set on square one-half acre, and if you do not object allowing the graves to be somewhat in the center of the plot.

All the family deeply appreciate kindnesses extended us on the day of the unveiling of Lieut. Vines Collier's monument in commemoration of his services in the Colonial Wars in 1858, and the aid he extended to the Revolutionist in 1878-79.

With very kind personal regards, I beg to remain

Yours most cordially,

J. C. Collier.

June 5, 1934, letter from Frances Howard to J. C. Collier:

Lexington Georgia
June 5, 1934.

Mr. J. C. Collier
Barnesville, Ga.

Dear Sir: —

In reply to your letter of
May 29th. Concerning the two
markers and four granite posts
it is agreeable with my mother
for you to ship them and they
will be put up without cost
as my father had promised.

Yours very truly,
(Miss) Frances Howard.

Here are two memos from J. C. Collier's files regarding information obtained from Mr. Bacon and the "Old Vines Collier Place".

Memo. information re Vines Collier, Salem Church, Oglethorpe Co. Ga.
re Samuel and Jos. Henry Lumpkin.

as given on June 30 32. by Mr. J. S. Bacon of Oglethorpe Co.

1. Salem Baptist Church; Records up to 1800 destroyed by fire in burning of home of Dr. Sanders in 1884. records from 1844 now in possession of Mr. J. S. Bacon.

Church was constituted July 27 1789 and the first building was erected on the Vines Collier place now owned by Mr. E.T. Howard whereas the present building is on the same property about 1 mile from the original. The church property consists of 20 acres of land on which stands the church, school and cemetery. the land being given by Mr. J. S. Bacon's great grandfather Mr. John Hawkins whose plantation adjoined Vines Collier's.

Vines Collier was a member of this church and very much interested in its progress and welfare.

2. Vines Collier's home built about 1785 was situated on a knoll in the center of his beautiful plantation, and is now standing in beautiful condition and repair,----a splendid example of pre colonial type of architecture 2 stories with high columns and front porch hall thru the house etc.--the brick used in the house were imported from England as can be seen they are handmade, mantels strictly colonial, ~~and~~ panelled beautiful in design. an old cellar is still in existence where wine, brandy etc. was kept. reference to old stair or steps in wall for entrance to second floor. This home was acquired by Mr. W.T. Howard in 1835 and has been continuously in the Howard family ever since .

3. The Lumpkin home. An adjoining plantation is the old Lumpkin home, a very interesting old place now owned by Mr. John S. Bacon. This home a splendid example of colonial architecture was built by ~~John Lumpkin of Virginia immediately after the Revolution~~ Samuel Lumpkin in 1836 to replace the first which was burned on this date. The Lumpkin plantation of substantially 4000 acres was acquired by John Lumpkin of Virginia soon after the Revolution John Lumpkin had a brother Joe Henry Lumpkin who was Chief Justice of Georgia. On the property lies the old Lumpkin cemetery. John Lumpkin the elder had many children including Joe Henry Lumpkin (not the Chief Justice) who married Sarah ~~Johnson~~ Johnson* and whose son Sam married Miss Kate Richardson, and a daughter Lucy who married Tom Olive author of the famous Olive bill in the Ga legislature about 45 years ago. Their son the lat Samuel Olive was a leading figure in Ga politics being Pres. of the state Senate. They are all buried in the Lumpkin cemetery.

Samuel Lumpkin above referred too was presiding Justice of the Supreme Court of Ga passing away in July 1903 and was buried at the Lumpkin cemetery.

xx 4. Adjoining plantations were owned by the Bacon's, also by John Hardeman who married Anne Collier a daughter of Vines information as to the Hardeman's legislative service later on another sheet. Note * Sarah Johnson aunt of Mrs John S. Bacon.

memo Vines Collier , information from Mr. John S. Bacon.

also Andrew Jackson who built the present home colonial in design about 1800 now occupied by Mr. and Mrs. W.M. Booth a daughter of Mr. John S. Bacon . Andrew Jackson married Lucy Johnson who after her husbands death married Geo. B. Lumpkin son of Samuel Lumpkin Sr.

4. There is an old Indian mound on the Lumpkin plantation which has been dug into a number of times, also a gold mine very close by.

5. Reference is made to the public service of the line of descendants of John Hardeman and Anne Collier Hardeman in the State Senate , legislature and the United States Congress, and also on the bench being either Judges or Justices.

Nobe Oglethorpe Co. was a part of Wilkes County being carved out of Wilkes after the Revolution.

MEMORANDUM REGARDING THE OLD VINES COLLIER PLACE
IN OGLETHORPE COUNTY.

THE farm bought from Peachy Gillam

Vines Collier land sold to W. T. Howard in 1836 /

Vines Collier place has remained in E. T. Howard's name
until this date, May 1934.

Deed to land granted to Lumpkins in about 1790 ,

John Collier son of Vines is supposed to be buried on the
Howard place with his father, however, some say it was
Vines Jr.

There was a Hardaway Collier living in this county along
about that time, 1800 to 1810.

William Collier, son of Vines had a son named John Vines
Collier, and John Vines Collier had two sons, one named
Jack, and one named Lockey that resided in and around Athens
and Lexington, Ga. Jack had a son named Ralph S. Collier,
who has four firls, he had another son named Miles W. Collier,
who has two boys and one girl, and at this date they are re-
siding in and around Comer, Ga., May 1934.

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One Thought on “The Search for the Grave of Vines Collier”



Meredith Clapper

on [February 15, 2015 at 9:16 am](#) said:

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Fascinating! Thanks so much for posting.